

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 232—RECOGNIZING THE CONTINUED PERSECUTION OF FALUN GONG PRACTITIONERS IN CHINA ON THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAMPAIGN BY THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY TO SUPPRESS THE FALUN GONG MOVEMENT, RECOGNIZING THE TUIDANG MOVEMENT WHEREBY CHINESE CITIZENS RENOUNCE THEIR TIES TO THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND ITS AFFILIATES, AND CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE CAMPAIGN TO PERSECUTE FALUN GONG PRACTITIONERS

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. COBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 232

Whereas Falun Gong (also known as Falun Dafa) is a Chinese spiritual discipline founded by Li Hongzhi in 1992 that consists of spiritual and moral teachings, meditation, and exercise based upon the universal principles of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance;

Whereas, during the mid-1990s, Falun Gong acquired a large and diverse following, with as many as 70,000,000 practitioners at its peak;

Whereas, on April 25, 1999, an estimated 10,000 to 30,000 Falun Gong practitioners gathered in Beijing to protest growing restrictions by the Government of the People's Republic of China on the activities of Falun Gong practitioners, and the Government of the People's Republic of China responded with an intensive, comprehensive, and unforgiving campaign against the movement that began on July 20, 1999, with the outlawing of Falun Gong;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has stated that it fully respects and protects citizen's freedom of religion in accordance with the law, but that "Falun Gong is neither a religion nor a spiritual movement; rather it is an evil cult against humanity, science and society";

Whereas, on October 30, 1999, China's National People's Congress promulgated an "anti-cult" law (article 300 of the Criminal Law), effective retroactively, to suppress the Falun Gong movement and thousands of religious sects across the country;

Whereas, since 1999, more than 6,000 Falun Gong practitioners have reportedly served time in prison, with estimates of those in re-education through labor camps reaching as many as 125,000 people, and Falun Gong practitioners are said to constitute approximately two-thirds of all prisoners and detainees of conscience in China (roughly 15,000 people);

Whereas the publication of "Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party" in November 2004 by the United States-based newspaper, the Epoch Times, led to the creation of the Tuidang movement;

Whereas the Tuidang movement, which translates literally as "withdraw from the communist party", has encouraged as many as 90,000,000 people to publicly renounce their membership in the Chinese Communist Party and its affiliates since 2004;

Whereas, in the lead up to and during the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai, authorities conducted propaganda campaigns portraying "cults" like Falun Gong as "dangers" to so-

ciety that "wreck families" and "poison the minds of youth", carried out strict surveillance of practitioners, and detained and imprisoned large numbers of practitioners;

Whereas, according to estimates by the Department of State and human rights organizations, since 1999, from several hundred to a few thousand Falun Gong adherents have died in custody from torture, abuse, and neglect;

Whereas a review of the Government of the People's Republic of China by the United Nations Human Rights Council's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review in February 2009 reiterated concerns regarding human rights violations against Falun Gong practitioners, including arrests, detention, torture, and reeducation through labor camps;

Whereas the Department of State's 2010 Human Rights Report on China cited reports of Falun Gong adherents being committed to mental health facilities, medicated against their will, and forcibly subjected to electric shock treatment;

Whereas the Department of State's 2010 Human Rights Report on China stated that the Government of the People's Republic of China automatically censored e-mail and web chats based on an ever-changing list of sensitive key words, such as "Falun Gong", and periodically blocked the blogs of a number of prominent activists, artists, scholars, and university professors; and

Whereas the 2010 Annual Report of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China found that lawyers involved in human rights advocacy work—including in legal cases involving Falun Gong practitioners and others deemed by the Government of the People's Republic of China to threaten "social stability"—have been harassed by the Government of the People's Republic of China based on who their clients are and the causes those clients represent: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners and their families for the lives, freedoms, and rights they lost for adhering to their beliefs and practices;

(2) calls upon the Chinese Communist Party to immediately cease and desist from its campaign to persecute Falun Gong practitioners and promptly release all Falun Gong practitioners who have been confined, detained, or imprisoned in retaliation for pursuing their right to hold and exercise spiritual beliefs;

(3) emphasizes to the Government of the People's Republic of China that freedom of religion includes the right of Falun Gong practitioners to freely practice Falun Gong in China;

(4) calls upon the President, the Secretary of State, and Members of Congress to—

(A) mark the anniversary of the Government of the People's Republic of China's official repression of the Falun Gong spiritual movement;

(B) express solidarity with persecuted Falun Gong practitioners in China; and

(C) meet with Falun Gong practitioners; and

(5) expresses support for volunteers and participants of the Tuidang movement for their peaceful efforts to reclaim Chinese history and culture, and for their pursuit of a fair and open government, a free people, and a society rooted in the practice of virtue.

SENATE RESOLUTION 233—HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM ON REACHING THE HISTORIC MILESTONE OF THE 135TH AND FINAL FLIGHT OF THE SPACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. VITTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 233

Whereas the launch of the space shuttle Atlantis on July 8, 2011, is the 135th and final flight of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Space Transportation System (STS-135) and the 33rd flight of the space shuttle Atlantis;

Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration built 5 space-capable orbiters, the Columbia, the Challenger, the Discovery, the Atlantis, and the Endeavour;

Whereas, with the launch of STS-135, 355 individuals will have flown 852 times during the history of the Space Shuttle Program, beginning with the launch of the first Space Transportation System flight on April 12, 1981;

Whereas a spirit of international partnership has been fostered among the 16 countries represented on the space shuttle missions flown during the history of the Space Shuttle Program, including Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United States;

Whereas the space shuttles together have flown 537,114,016 miles, with STS-135 adding an additional 4,000,000 miles;

Whereas, during the history of the Space Shuttle Program, more than 2,000 on-orbit experiments have been conducted in the fields of Earth science, biology, fluids, materials sciences, and astronomy;

Whereas the Space Shuttle Program has executed the launch and service of the Hubble Space Telescope, enabling groundbreaking and breathtaking views of the universe outside of our solar system;

Whereas the space shuttles have docked to 2 different space stations, with 9 missions to Mir, the space station of the Government of Russia, and 37 missions to the International Space Station;

Whereas the Space Shuttle Program has been essential to the on-orbit assembly of the International Space Station and vital to ensuring the continued viability and support of the International Space Station;

Whereas the space shuttles have landed at the Kennedy Space Center 77 times, at Edwards Air Force Base 54 times, and at the White Sands Test Facility once;

Whereas the launch configuration of the entire Space Transportation System contains approximately 2,500,000 moving parts and, at lift-off, weighs approximately 4,500,000 pounds; and

Whereas the space shuttles can travel around the Earth at a speed of approximately 17,500 miles per hour: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on reaching the historic milestone of the 135th and final flight of the Space Transportation System;

(2) honors the men and women of the Space Shuttle Program, who worked tirelessly to

design, build, and operate the Space Transportation System, in order to promote science, exploration, and international cooperation;

(3) remembers the 14 crewmembers lost during the space shuttle Challenger accident, which occurred on January 28, 1986, and the space shuttle Columbia accident, which occurred on February 1, 2003;

(4) notes the diligence in applying the lessons learned through the Challenger and Columbia tragedies to honor the 14 crewmembers we lost and enhance the safety of the crewmembers that followed;

(5) recognizes that the Space Shuttle Program has inspired generations of children to become engineers, scientists, and explorers, which has led to maintaining the precedent of leadership in human space exploration set by the United States during the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo missions; and

(6) acknowledges that the Space Shuttle Program has, through its technological advancements and scientific research, driven innovation in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to benefit the people of the United States and all of humankind.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 550. Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 535 submitted by Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. MERKLEY) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 1323, to express the sense of the Senate on shared sacrifice in resolving the budget deficit; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 551. Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2055, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 552. Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2055, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 550. Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 535 submitted by Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. MERKLEY) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 1323, to express the sense of the Senate on shared sacrifice in resolving the budget deficit; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. . SENSE OF THE SENATE ON PROTECTING MEDICAID.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) 68,000,000 low-income children, parents, pregnant women, seniors and people with disabilities are served by the Medicaid program.

(2) After almost 50 years, Medicaid is still a life-saving part of what we do as a government—by providing health care to more than 20 percent of all Americans, including 40 per-

cent of the births, 50 percent of long-term care, and, along with the Children's Health Insurance Program, 34 percent of the children in our country.

(3) Medicaid provides essential health coverage, furnishing a usual source of care, lowering infant mortality rates, improving the health of adults and children with chronic illnesses and special health care needs, and providing critical preventive care.

(4) Medicaid provides essential coverage for seniors and people with disabilities. It covers 62 percent of all long-term care services and supports. It also covers premiums and co-payments on behalf of low-income Medicare beneficiaries

(5) The 9,000,000 beneficiaries who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare are among the most medically complex beneficiaries and account for nearly 40 percent of Medicaid spending, although they account for only 15 percent of Medicaid enrollment. Significant Medicaid cuts would undermine efforts to improve care and lower costs for this group of beneficiaries.

(6) Medicaid is a very efficient program. On average, after adjusting for differences in health, Medicaid costs 27 percent less per child than private insurance and 20 percent less for adults. Between 2000 and 2009, per beneficiary spending grew at 4.6 percent compared to 7.7 percent growth in premiums for employer sponsored insurance.

(7) Medicaid is an economic engine supporting millions of home-grown jobs at hospitals, nursing homes, community health centers, and doctor's offices.

(8) Medicaid is the health care program that helps States during times of crises – including after the September 11th attacks, hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the recent floods and tornados in the South and Midwest. It automatically expands during an economic downturn to assist families who lose their jobs and health insurance.

(9) Medicaid is the largest source of Federal revenues for States. According to the National Governors Association, "federal spending reductions for Medicaid will result in a direct cost shift to States, which will result in reduced Medicaid expenditures, increased State taxes or reductions in K-12 education, transportation, and public safety funding."

(10) Cuts to federal Medicaid funding will force already cash-strapped States to cut eligibility, benefits, and provider payment rates, inevitably resulting in reduced access to care for children, parents, pregnant women, seniors and people with disabilities who have nowhere else to turn for affordable, comprehensive coverage.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that any agreement to reduce the budget deficit should not include arbitrary cuts to Medicaid that shift health care costs to States and local governments and jeopardize health care coverage for millions of Americans.

SA 551. Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2055, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 84, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 127. (a) Using funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT 2005", and notwith-

standing the deadline specified in section 2904(a)(5) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101-510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note), the Umatilla Chemical Depot, Oregon, shall be closed as part of the 2005 round of defense base closure and realignment after the completion of chemical demilitarization activities required under the Chemical Weapons Convention, as provided under Recommendation #160 of the final report of the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended to close Umatilla Army Chemical Depot outside of the process provided for under the 2005 round of defense base closure and realignment.

SA 552. Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2055, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 84, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 127. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended to close Umatilla Army Chemical Depot outside of the process provided for under the 2005 round of defense base closure and realignment pursuant to Recommendation #160 of the final report of the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks. The hearing will be held on Thursday, July 28, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills:

S. 264, A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Mississippi 2 parcels of surplus land within the boundary of the Natchez Trace Parkway, and for other purposes;

S. 265, A bill to authorize the acquisition of core battlefield land at Champion Hill, Port Gibson, and Raymond for addition to Vicksburg National Military Park;

S. 324, A bill to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission;

S. 764, A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to make technical corrections to the segment designations for the Chetco River, Oregon;

S. 864, A bill to designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California;

S. 883, A bill to authorize National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. to establish a